IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

n re application of:

Examiner: Deberry, Regina M.

Avi ASHKENAZI, et al.

Art Unit: 1647

Application Serial No. 09/903,562

Confirmation No. 1139

Filed: July 11, 2001

Attorney's Docket No. 39780-1618 P2C14

Customer No. 35489

For: SECRETED AND

TRANSMEMBRANE

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ACIDS ENCODING THE SAME

EXPRESS MAIL LABEL NO. EL 976 542 920 US

Date Mailed: DECEMBER 8, 2003

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Mail Stop RCE Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Notice of Allowance mailed on September 26, 2003 in the above-identified patent application, Applicants file the present Preliminary Amendment concurrently with a Request for Continued Examination with necessary fees.